IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 13 and 14, and add new claims 15 and 16 as follows:

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An optical disk method for recording information on an optical disk, based on a mark-length recording scheme, comprising:

forming pits sequentially from an inner circumference to an outer circumference of the optical disk [[via]] by a light beam irradiated onto a track formed as a groove or land on a recording surface of the optical disk; and

performing tracking control, during said step of forming pits, by offsetting a center of an optical axis of the light beam, by a predetermined amount, from a center line of the track toward the outer circumference of the optical disk, the predetermined amount being such that pit forming efficiencies of the inner and outer circumference sides of the track relative to the offset light beam are balanced. ~~a tendency towards~~

~~formation of a pit on an inner circumference side of the track due to heat remaining in an adjacent inner circumference track is canceled and the pit is accurately formed on the center line of the track, wherein a tracking error signal passes through a sample and hold circuit for a recording signal OFF period.~~

14. (Currently Amended) An optical disk recording device for recording information on an optical disk, based on a mark-length recording scheme, by forming pits sequentially from an inner circumference to an outer circumference of the optical disk [[via]] by a light beam irradiated onto a track formed as a groove or land on a recording surface of the optical disk, said optical disk recording device comprising:

an optical pickup that irradiates the light beam onto the track of the optical disk for recording information and follows the track according to a tracking error signal;

a tracking signal generating section that ~~sequentially~~ outputs ~~a~~ the tracking error signal by continuously detecting the tracking error signal during a particular period from a given time point to a subsequent time point, wherein the given time point is within a recording signal ON period, after formation of a pit is initiated in response to turning on a recording pulse signal, and after a reflection of the light beam from the optical disk passes a peak level, ~~to a subsequent time point~~ wherein the subsequent time point is within a recording signal OFF period and before ~~when~~ the recording pulse signal is next turned on, and ~~that,~~ during ~~a~~ an other period other than said particular period, by ~~holds~~ holding a level of the tracking error signal detected immediately before said other period, ~~passes the tracking error signal through a sample and hold circuit for a recording signal OFF period,~~ or ~~outputs~~ outputting a zero-level

tracking error signal ~~, said tracking signal generating section smoothing the tracking error signal to thereby provide the smoothed tracking error signal~~ as a tracking signal;

~~an offset imparting circuit to impart an offset to the tracking signal to offset a center of an optical axis of the light beam by a predetermined amount from a center line of the track toward the outer circumference of the optical disc;~~

a storage circuit ~~to~~ that stores information of the given time point ~~indicative of optimum offset values corresponding~~ associated with ~~to various possible~~ recording conditions;

a sampling pulse generating circuit that generates a sampling pulse corresponding to the particular period; and

a control circuit ~~to~~ that reads out ~~one of~~ the given time point information ~~optimum values corresponding to~~ associated with the ~~current~~ recording conditions from the storage circuit, ~~and~~ sets the given time point information to the sampling pulse generating circuit for obtaining the sampling pulse, and controls the optical pickup to form pits for recording information following the track according to the tracking error signal output by the tracking signal generating section, said tracking error signal having a tracking offset value corresponding to a tracking offset amount such that pit forming efficiencies of the inner and outer circumference sides of the track relative to the offset light beam are to be balanced. ~~offset, to be imparted by said offset imparting circuit, to the read-out offset value, and performs tracking control using the tracking signal having the offset imparted thereto, wherein the read-out offset value is set so that a tendency towards formation of a pit on an inner circumference side of the track due to heat~~

~~remaining in an adjacent inner circumference track is canceled and the pit is accurately formed on the center line of the track~~

15. (New) An optical disk recording device for recording information on an optical disk, based on a mark-length recording scheme, by forming pits sequentially from an inner circumference to an outer circumference of the optical disk by a light beam irradiated onto a track formed as a groove or land on a recording surface of the optical disk, said optical disk recording device comprising:

an optical pickup that irradiates the light beam onto the track of the optical disk for recording information and follows the track according to a tracking error signal;

a tracking signal generating section that outputs the tracking error signal by continuously detecting a reflected light reception signal resulting from the tracking error signal during a particular period from a given time point to a subsequent time point, wherein the given time point is within a recording signal ON period, after formation of a pit is initiated in response to turning on a recording pulse signal, and after the reflected light reception signal from the optical disk passes a peak level, wherein the subsequent time point is within a recording signal OFF period and before the recording pulse signal is next turned on, and during an other period other than said particular period, by holding a level of the reflected light reception signal detected immediately before said other period or outputting a zero-level tracking error signal as a tracking signal;

a storage circuit that stores information of the given time point associated with recording conditions;

a sampling pulse generating circuit that generates a sampling pulse corresponding to the particular period; and

a control circuit that reads out the given time point information associated with the recording conditions from the storage circuit, sets the given time point information to the sampling pulse generating circuit for obtaining the sampling pulse, and controls the optical pickup to form pits for recording information following the track according to the tracking error signal output by the tracking signal generating section, said tracking error signal having a tracking offset value corresponding to a tracking offset amount such that pit forming efficiencies of the inner and outer circumference sides of the track relative to the offset light beam are to be balanced.

16. (New) An optical disk recording device for recording information on an optical disk, based on a mark-length recording scheme, by forming pits sequentially from an inner circumference to an outer circumference of the optical disk by a light beam irradiated onto a track formed as a groove or land on a recording surface of the optical disk, said optical disk recording device comprising:

an optical pickup that irradiates the light beam onto the track of the optical disk for recording information and follows the track according to a tracking error signal;

a tracking signal generating section that outputs the tracking error signal by detecting, using a sample and hold circuit, a reflected light reception signal resulting from the tracking error signal during a particular period from a given time point to a subsequent time point, wherein the given time point is within a recording signal ON period, after formation of a pit is initiated in response to turning on a recording pulse signal, and after the reflected light reception signal from the optical disk passes a peak

level, wherein the subsequent time point is within a recording signal OFF period and before the recording pulse signal is next turned on, and during an other period other than said particular period, by holding a level of the reflected light reception signal detected immediately before said other period or outputting a zero-level tracking error signal as a tracking signal; and

a sampling pulse generating circuit that generates a sampling pulse, corresponding to the particular period and the given time point, for the sample and hold circuit, wherein the optical pickup forms pits for recording information following the track according to the tracking error signal output by the tracking signal generating section, said tracking error signal having a tracking offset value corresponding to a tracking offset amount such that pit forming efficiencies of the inner and outer circumference sides of the track relative to the offset light beam are to be balanced.

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